— *Wellington* —

GRAVE EXPLORER'S GUIDEBOOK

Made by Andrew McCauley in 2020, with the help of the Friends of Karori Cemetery.

All biographical information sourced from Te Ara - The Encyclopedia of New Zealand (teara.govt.nz) and New Zealand History - Nga Korero a Ipurangi o Aotearoa (nzhistory.govt.nz).

If you have any corrections, concerns or suggestions about the information in this volume, or you'd like to work with me on a future volume, get in touch.

graves.of.wellington@gmail.com

@ndrewmccauley

KARORI CEMETERY

THANKS FOR PICKING UP VOLUME ONE OF MY WELLINGTON GRAVE EXPLORER'S GUIDEBOOK.

This guidebook leads you on a tour of a local Wellington cemetery. Its aim is to help you rediscover the stories of people that were part of our local history, and to give you an excuse to visit a cemetery so you can experience it in your own way, and at your own pace.

Each volume sets out a route through a local Wellington cemetery, taking you round the graves of a few people I've chosen based around a particular theme. It provides information about what they did and the contribution they made to our local and national history.

Some of the people featured in the Guide are selected because they did something cool that I think deserves recognition. Others are included because they did something interesting or important that had an impact on our history -- regardless of my personal opinion about their actions. And some I've included because they were just ordinary people like us who were part of something important in our history.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDEBOOK

First of all, fold out this page to see a map of the cemetery showing you the full tour route.

Follow the dotted line around the cemetery.

When you get to a pink box, go to the corresponding page find information about a particular person, and more detailed instructions about how to find their grave.

The grave itself will be marked orange.

THE ORGANISED LABOUR MOVEMENT

This edition is all about people that were part of the organised labour movement in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

They're not all necessarily the most prominent figures -- a few of them are, but others are just regular people who were active in the movement and in their community.

It's difficult to collectively describe this group of people. They varied significantly in their politics, and for many of them their politics changed over time. The people in this guide include communists and anti-communists, socialists and capitalists, and members of a large and confusing variety of unions. Some of the people here were friends and comrades, while others were bitter rivals.

Largely the people featured in this volume fall into two groups though. The first is the political group, many of whom were important figures in the early Labour Party (and its various iterations and precursors) and who then went on to play a massive role in shaping New Zealand society as part of the Second Labour Government in the 1930s. The second is people who held figures in trade unions (both for paid and unpaid professions); these people went the industrial organising route, rather than the party political one.

I thought when I started my research, that this would be a book full of heroes. What I found though, is that the people in here were more complex than I expected. Some of them were inspiring, some were disappointing, and some were both.

Ultimately though, what I think makes these people worth remembering is that they tried to create better conditions for working class New Zealanders through political, industrial or protest action. And in doing that, they were part of a movement that helped shape the kind of society we live in today.

SOME NOTES ABOUT ORGANISATIONS

It's kind of hard to follow the various organisations mentioned in this guide, many with confusingly similar names. So here's a run-down of the main ones.

LIBERAL PARTY was the first political party in New Zealand, starting off in 1891. Many on the left were initially supportive of the Liberal Party, until more explicitly leftist parties started to form. The remains of the Liberal party ended up merging with the more conservative Reform Party in the 1930s to become the foundation of today's National Party.

SOCIALIST PARTY represented the more radical marxist side of the left in early New Zealand politics. It started off in 1901, and eventually got folded up into the Social Democratic Party in 1913.

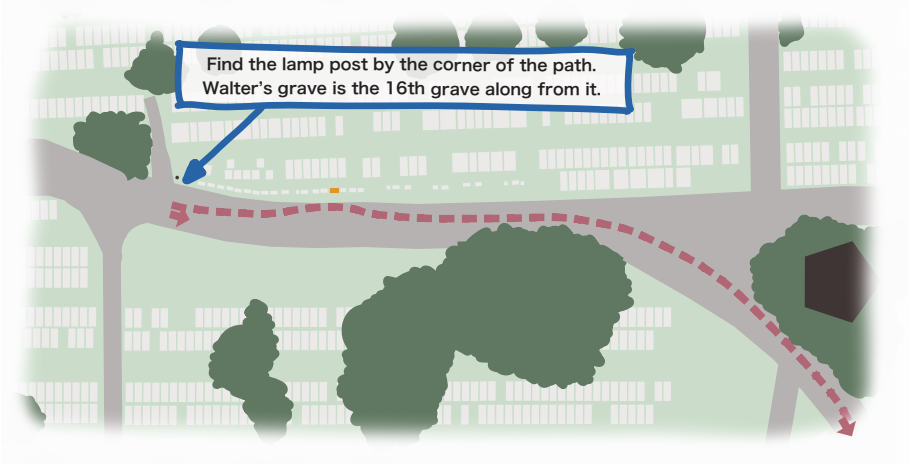
INDEPENDENT POLITICAL LABOUR LEAGUE was a more moderate alternative to the Socialist Party. It was established in 1904 with a platform of land nationalisation and state ownership of industry. It later became the first Labour Party.

LABOUR PARTY was first set up in 1910, and took over from the IPLL as the more moderate side of the left. It quickly merged with a bunch of independents to become the United Labour Party, which then merged with the Socialist Party to become the Social Democratic Party, which then merged with some more independents to become the second Labour Party in 1916. The second Labour Party is the one that's in Parliament today.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY was the combination of the first Labour Party, the Socialist Party, and some independents. It was founded in 1913, but didn't stick around long. It merged into the second Labour Party in 1916.

ALLIANCE OF LABOUR was an organisation of unions that advocated industrial unionism, class war and direct action. Its constitution stated that the One Big Union would overthrow capitalism in New Zealand and introduce a socialist society.

FEDERATION OF LABOUR was two different organisations. The first, in the 1900s, was into class war, industrial unionism and direct action. The second, in the 1930s, was a powerful umbrella organisation that represented unions and worked with the Labour Government on industrial matters.



WALTER NASH

Walter formed the New Plymouth branch of the (second) Labour Party, and stood unsuccessfully as a Labour candidate for the borough council in 1919. During the 1918 influenza epidemic Walter helped coordinate the voluntary community response in New Plymouth.

In 1921 he was fined for importing seditious literature, when he brought copies of communist publications into New Zealand.

He was national secretary for the Labour Party from 1922 to 1932, and from 1929 until his death he was MP for Hutt South, representing the people of Lower Hutt and Petone in Parliament.

Walter was finance minister in the 1935 Labour Government, which nationalised the Reserve Bank, introduced a loan scheme to encourage housing growth, raised pensions and government salaries, and introduced milk in schools. He later became minister for social security, and introduced the Social Security Act in 1938 - the legislation that set the foundation for the 'cradle to grave' welfare state.

As resident Minister to the US during World War Two he advocated for the formation of the United Nations, and he attended the conference that established the UN after the end of the war.

He was also Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1957-1960. However his Government became massively unpopular with working class New Zealanders when they introduced the 'Black Budget' of 1957, which raised taxes, including for alcohol.

MARIANNE TASKER

Marianne (born Marianne Manchester) formed the Women's Democratic Union (WDU), which was committed to reducing inequality and improving women's position in society through legislative reform and education. The WDU encouraged women to take a more active role in community affairs, including by being appointed to public bodies, and Marianne herself was appointed to the Mount Cook School Committee in 1895.

Marianne was vice-president of National Council of Women of New Zealand, which provided a political voice for women and supported the forming of women's unions, associations and political groups.

She helped found the Wellington branch of the New Zealand Domestic Workers' Union, and led a campaign to have 'domestic economy' included in the curriculum at Wellington Technical School (now Massey Wellington) so young women would have employment options as domestic servants instead of having to work in factories.

Marianne's politics weren't as progressive on race as they were on gender; she was a founding member of the Anti-Chinese League, which blamed Chinese immigrants for unemployment, and advocated for the poll tax on Chinese people.

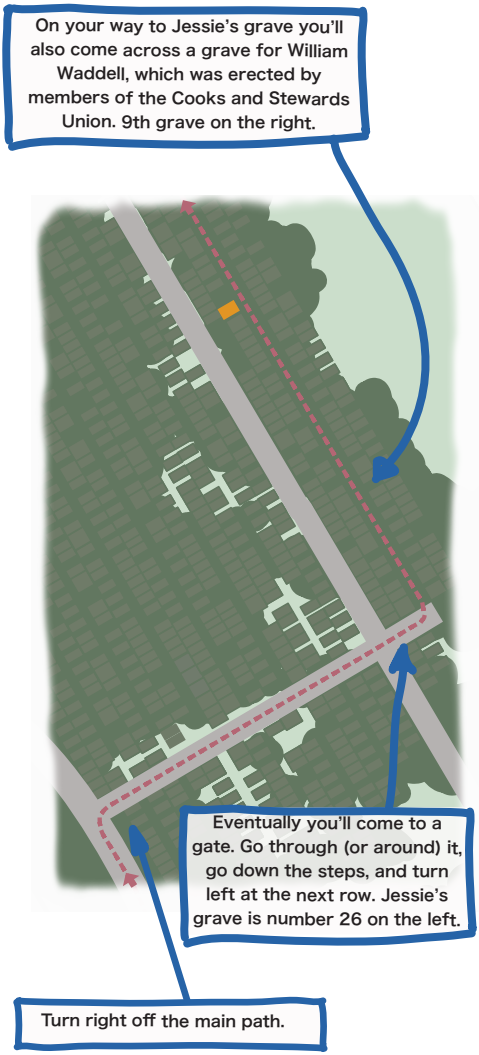
ALFRED HINDMARSH

Alfred led the Wellington branch of the Seamen's Union during the 1890s.

He helped found the Independent Political Labour League, which was a political party that opposed the ruling Liberal Party, but was less revolutionary than the New Zealand Socialist Party. With their backing he was elected to Wellington City Council in 1905.

He was elected as an MP for Wellington South in 1911 under the first Labour Party. When the second Labour Party was established in 1916 he was its Parliamentary leader.

He died in the influenza epidemic in 1918.



JESSIE AITKEN

Jessie was a member of the Wellington Housewives' Union, which campaigned against rising living costs, encouraged co-operative buying, and aimed to establish a political voice for women in the home. From 1916 she was elected to its executive and social committees.

During WWI she was a member of the Women's Anti-Conscription League. She was also president of the Wellington branch of the Women's International League, which promoted international co-operation as an alternative to the warfare. She was involved in lobbying the government on the ill-treatment of conscientious objectors and providing practical support for their families.

She was elected to the Wellington Hospital and Charitable Aid Board as a Labour candidate in April 1917. She was also part of their social welfare committee.

She stood unsuccessfully for Wellington City Council in 1919 - the first time women had stood. Her platform included to improve housing conditions and sanitation, and provide rest rooms for women and recreational facilities for children.

PETER FRASER

Peter was a socialist, trade-unionist, journalist and politician. As president of the Auckland General Labourers' Union he won improvements in wages and working conditions for cement company workers. He was the New Zealand Federation of Labour's representative in the 1912 Waihi Strike, and was involved in both the New Zealand Socialist Party and the Social Democratic Party.

In 1916 he was jailed for sedition for opposing military conscription. He argued that conscription of people should only be introduced if it was also accompanied by the conscription of wealth. After his prison term he became editor of the Māoriland Worker, a left-wing publication.

He was elected MP of Wellington Central in 1918, and coordinated volunteer efforts in response to the influenza epidemic that year. From 1919 to 1923 was also a member of Wellington City Council.

As health minister in the first Labour government in 1935, he introduced the beginnings of the free public health system. He was Prime Minister of New Zealand for most of World War Two, and despite his earlier opposition, introduced compulsory conscription.

JANET FRASER

Janet (born Janet Munro) was the first secretary of the women's branch of the New Zealand Labour Party, formed in 1920. She became one of the first women justices of the peace, and an associate of the Children's Court. She was also active in women's organisations like the League of Mothers (a Christian group aimed at promoting marriage and responsible parenting), the New Zealand Society for the Protection of Women and Children (which aimed to protect women from mistreatment and improve their legal rights), the Plunket Society, the Women's Borstal Association of New Zealand (which supported women prisoners), and the New Zealand Federation of University Women.

Janet worked as a volunteer during the flu epidemic. She spent 10 years on the Wellington Hospital Board. She chaired a government committee of inquiry into abortion and maternity services. Janet was also appointed to the Eugenics Board, which was set up in the 1920s as an alternative to a bill her husband fought against that would have enabled forced sterilisation of 'defective' people.

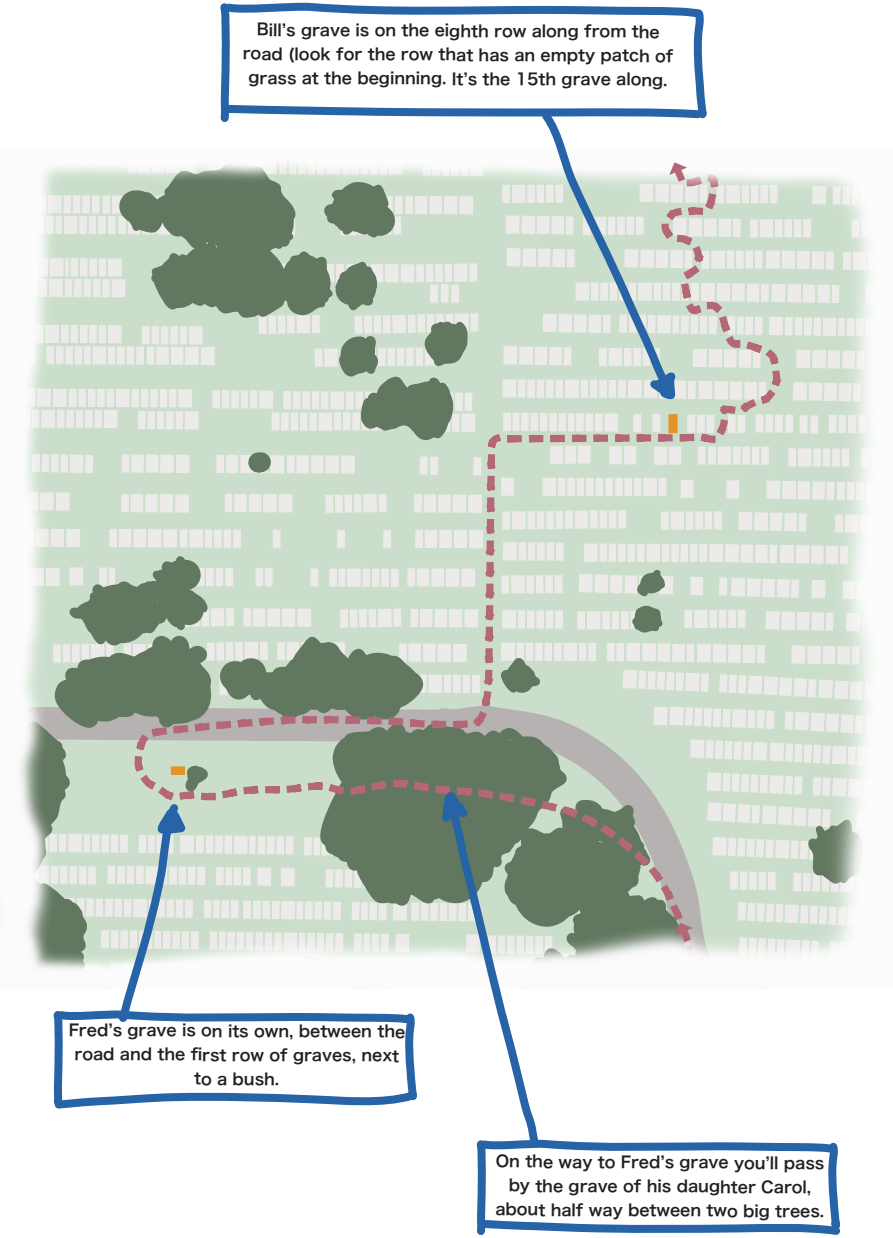
PATRICK FINTAN WALSH

Fintan (born Patrick Tuohy) was a foundation member of the Communist Party of New Zealand. He was active in the Federated Seamen's Union of New Zealand (FSU), and was its president from 1926 to 1963. He was vice-president of the New Zealand Alliance of Labour.

He was president of the Wellington Trades Council and on the executive of the Federation of Labour. He helped establish, and was president of, the Wellington Clerical Workers' Union, He was also secretary of small unions representing biscuit factory workers and fishermen.

During World War Two he was part of the government's Economic Stabilisation Commission, and his continued support for it after the war set him at odds with many in the union movement. In the 1951 Waterfront Dispute he sided against the striking workers.

He's believed to have coined the term "Black Budget" for Walter Nash's 1957 Budget.


Bill's grave is on the eighth row along from the road (look for the row that has an empty patch of grass at the beginning. It's the 15th grave along.
Fred's grave is on its own, between the road and the first row of graves, next to a bush.
On the way to Fred's grave you'll pass by the grave of his daughter Carol, about half way between two big trees.

BILL VEITCH

Bill was a delegate for, then branch secretary, branch chairman, and eventually president of, the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of New Zealand (ASRS). In 1910–11 he presented petitions to Parliament seeking improved wages and conditions, which were unsuccessful.

He became an MP for Wanganui in 1911. He advocated a system of proportional representation in which each section of the community would send its own member to Parliament, and was a strong opponent of commercial monopolies.

He broke with the Labour movement in 1916 over their views on conscription, and later became an anti-socialist. He continued on in parliament as an independent, then as part of the Liberal and United Parties. After losing his seat he attempted a comeback as part of the National Party.

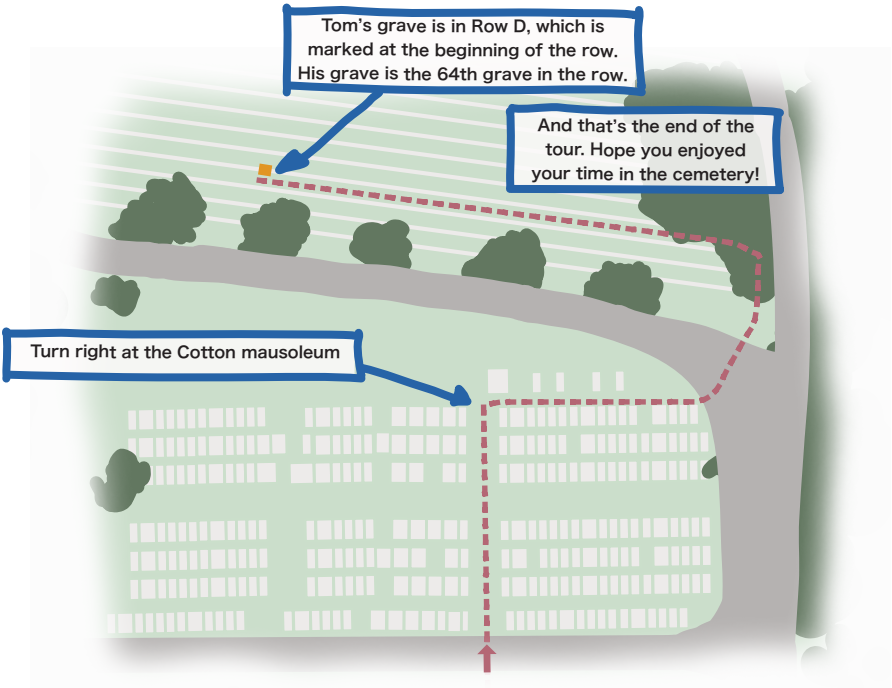
FRED YOUNG

Fred was both secretary of the Auckland Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union and general secretary of the New Zealand Federated Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Association for over thirty years.

He was an executive member of the Auckland Labour Representation Committee (the committee that selected Labour Party candidates, and secretary of the Auckland District Council of the New Zealand Alliance of Labour.

He was appointed to the Legislative Council (the upper house of Parliament) from 1941 till it was abolished in 1950.

Although he was an anti-communist, he briefly took on the chairmanship of the New Zealand Trade Union Congress, a breakaway group from the Federation of Labour led by militant waterside workers.



WILLIAM THOMAS YOUNG

Tom was a delegate for the Federated Seamen's Union of New Zealand (FSU) .He was president of the Wellington Trades and Labour Council in 1904–5 and 1911–12, secretary of the Wellington Tramways Employees' Union from about 1904 until 1909, and in 1908 was appointed deputy workers' representative on the Court of Arbitration. He also made unsuccessful attempts to gain election to the city council, harbour board and Parliament as a Labour candidate.

By 1911 he became the dominant figure in the FSU, and became its national secretary when the head office was shifted from Dunedin to Wellington.

In the 1913 waterfront strikes he was arrested for sedition and inciting violence, and in 1914 he served three months in prison for it. In October 1917 he was again imprisoned for inciting a 'seditious' strike by Wellington coastal seamen.

He was ousted from his role by Fintan Patrick Walsh, and also ousted from the Labour Party and the Alliance of Labour and the New Zealand Worker. He remained a unionist but a vocal anti-communist.